# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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22 June 2000

ENGLISH
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## LETTER DATED 21 JUNE 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE PARAGRAPHS RELATING TO DISARMAMENT CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED: "CARTAGENA DE INDIAS DECLARATION RIO GROUP 2000: COMMITMENT FOR THE MILLENNIUM", ADOPTED AT THE FOURTEENTH SUMMIT MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE RIO GROUP, HELD ON 15 AND 16 JUNE 2000

I have the honour to transmit in the annex to the present letter the paragraphs relating to disarmament contained in the document entitled: "Cartagena de Indias Declaration Rio Group 2000: Commitment for the Millennium", adopted at the fourteenth summit meeting of heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held on 15 and 16 June 2000, with the request that the text of these paragraphs be distributed as unofficial document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Camilo Reyes Rodríguez
Ambassador,
Head of Mission

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS DECLARATION

Rio Group 2000

Commitment for the Millennium

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13. As the world's first densely populated region to be free of nuclear weapons, with the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, we maintain that nuclear disarmament is the responsibility of all States, primarily those which possess nuclear weapons, and that it is incumbent on the international community, represented in the United Nations, to take specific steps to promote the non-proliferation and the elimination of nuclear weapons. We express our satisfaction with the outcome of the last Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which contained an unequivocal commitment to the complete elimination of such weapons, and we reaffirm our support for the initiative on a new agenda for disarmament.

14. In our hemispheres, we have developed such instruments as the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, and we have undertaken to promote international agreement on this issue in the framework of the negotiations of the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime and to build on those activities on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in the year 2001.

15. We urge all States which have not yet done so to ratify as soon as possible the Ottawa Convention, to ensure the complete eradication of anti-personnel mines, and we renew our commitment to the rehabilitation of victims and to the clearance of mines in our region, as well as to the goal of transforming our hemisphere into a zone free of anti-personnel mines. We agree that the use of excessively cruel or inhuman weapons, particularly those which are home-made, should be prohibited in conflicts of any kind.

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